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Gardenia

by Himawari Souya

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WE SWORE OUR LOVE SILENTLY, BY THE GARDENIAS...
PRECIOUS FEELINGS WE HAD CONCEALED DEEP WITHIN OUR HEARTS...
flutter
OH, NO!

T/N: The Japanese title, "Kuchinashi (gardenia)" has a dual meaning; it also means "unspoken."

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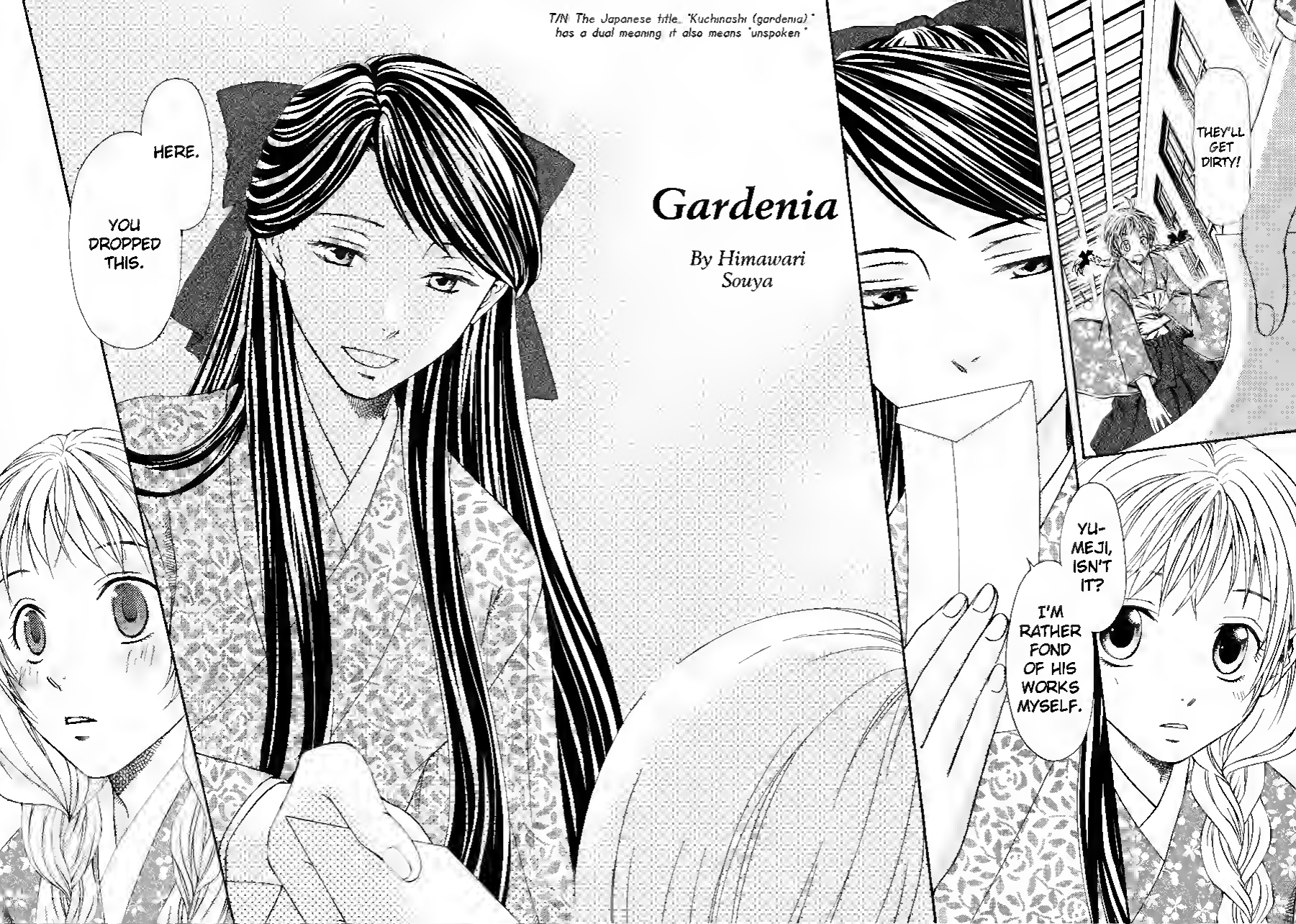
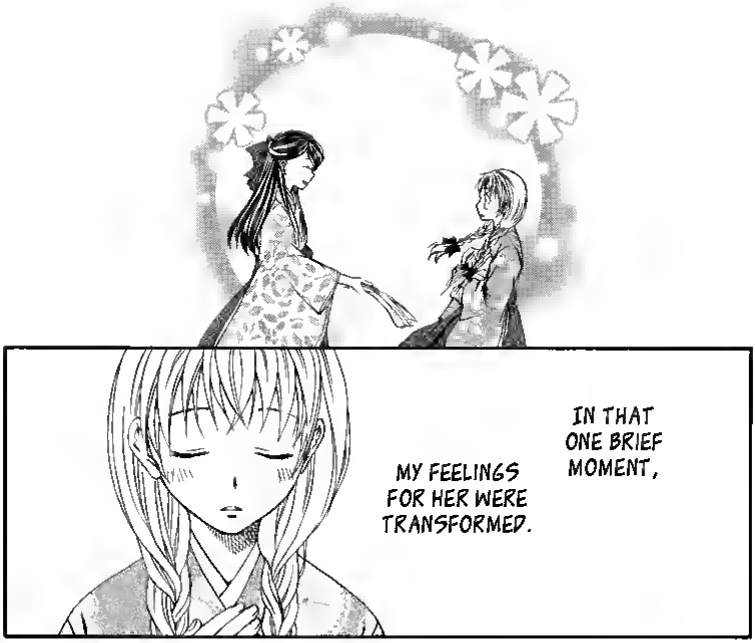


T/N The first character of Sakiko's name means "to bloom"
SAKIKO-SAMA...
CHATTER
CHATTER
SUZUNO!
OVER HERE!
LOOK! IT'S SAKIKO-SAMA.
SHE'S GOT BOTH BEAUTY AND BRAINS.
AND SHE'S ATHLETIC, TOO. SHE MUST BE THE MOST PERFECT PERSON IN THE WORLD!♥

WITH HER NOBLE BEAUTY,
SHE COULD BE THE STAR ACTRESS OF A GIRLS' THEATER TROUPE.
OOOOH!
OOOOH!
SMACK
SQUEAL♡
It's settled, then!
SQUEE
SQUEE
WE'LL ALL CALL OUT TO HER TOGETHER! ON THREE.
NOT ME.

Sakiko-sama!!
ONE, TWO, THREE.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO IT, SUZUNO?
smile
JUST LIKE THEM BUT NOW...
I USED TO BE
I can die happy! ♥
SQUEE
SHE SMILED AT US!!
DID YOU SEE?
SQUEE
SQUEE

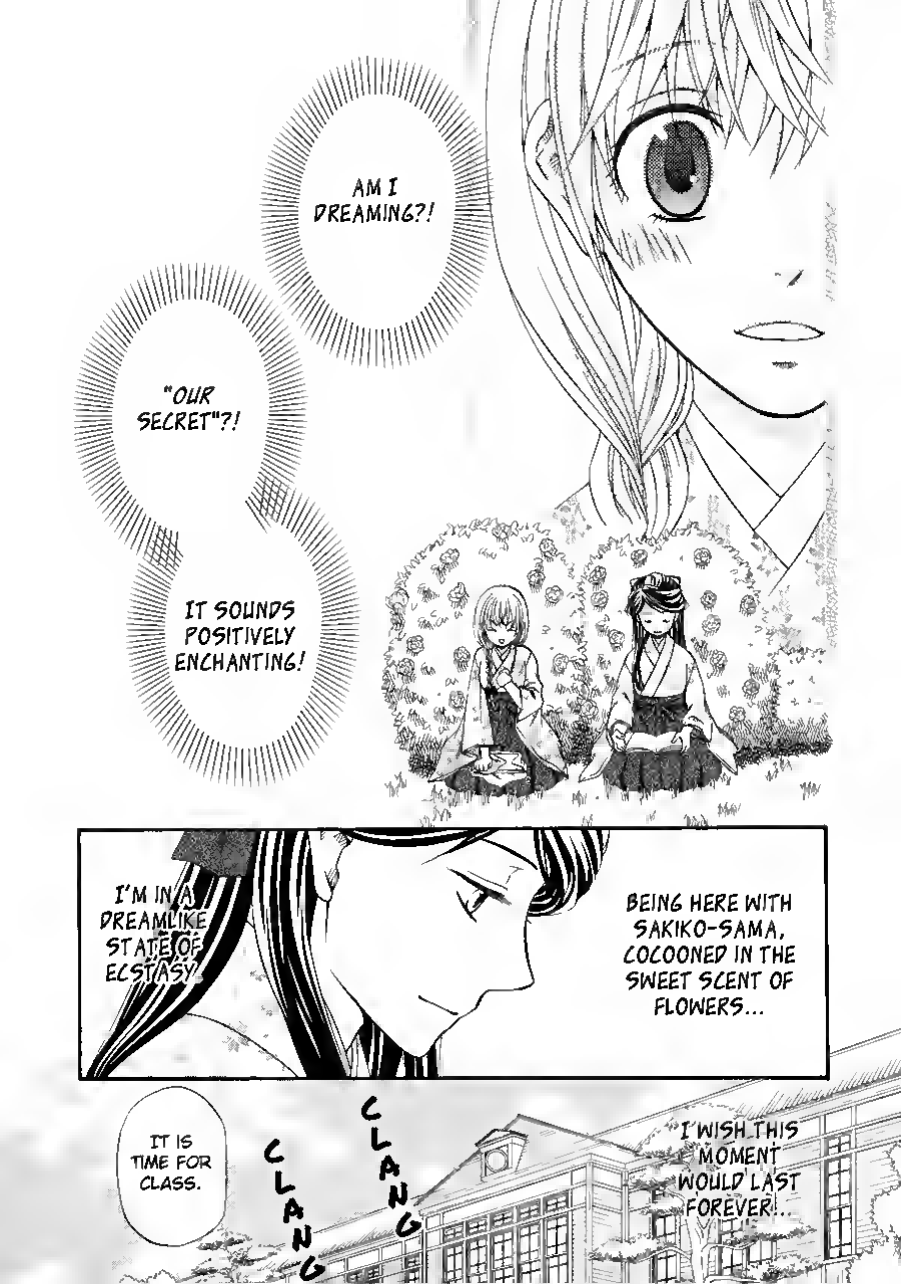


IS IT TERRIBLY BRAZEN OF ME TO WANT A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HER?

THE GARDENIAS ARE IN BLOOM.
THEY LOOK LOVELY, TOO.
I WONDER IF THEIR SCENT WILL CLING TO ME LIKE PERFUME.
HEHE. I COULDN'T RESIST THIS NEW STATIONERY!
AND SAKIKO-SAMA SAID SHE LIKED IT...
I THINK IT WOULD REALLY SUIT HER.
IF I RECORD MY FEELINGS ON IT...
MAYBE I'LL BE GRANTED A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SAKIKO-SAMA...
NO, THAT'S FOOLISH! I'M LETTING MY IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH ME.
OH, MY.

I SEE I'M NOT ALONE.
SAKIKO-SAMA?!
I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAD FOUND THIS SECRET HIDEAWAY...
GASP!
BUT I WAS MISTAKEN.
Please excuse me!!
And I won't intrude on you any longer!!
No, it's all my fault!! I didn't find it until after you did!

YOU WERE HERE FIRST. IT WOULD BE ODD FOR YOU TO LEAVE.
CLASP
PLEASE WAIT.
WOULD YOU MIND IF I WERE TO JOIN YOU INSTEAD?
N-not at all!
You're welcome to!
THIS PLACE WILL BE OUR SECRET NOW.


AM I DREAMING?!
"OUR SECRET"?!
IT SOUNDS POSITIVELY ENCHANTING!
I'M IN A DREAMLIKE STATE OF ECSTASY.
BEING HERE WITH SAKIKO-SAMA, COCOONED IN THE SWEET SCENT OF FLOWERS...
IT IS TIME FOR CLASS.
CLANG
CLANG
I WISH THIS MOMENT WOULD LAST FOREVER...

I HOPE WE WILL MEET LIKE THIS AGAIN.
YES!
"I HOPE WE WILL MEET LIKE THIS AGAIN."
Tee hee hee!
WHAT ARE YOU GIGGLING ABOUT?
It's a secret! ♥
HMPH, YOU'RE NO FUN.

MY HAPPINESS WILL EVAPORATE INTO THIN AIR...

I FEEL LIKE IF I TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS,

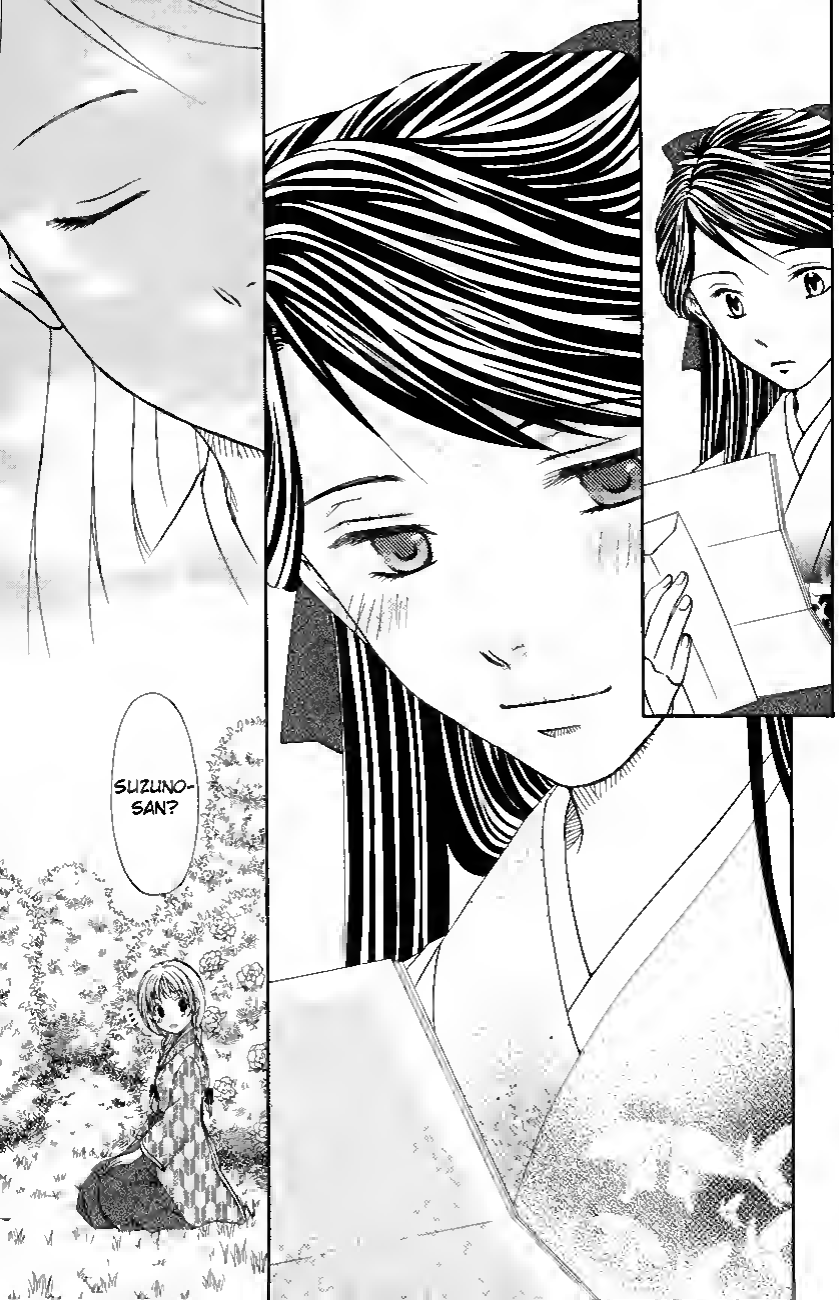
ALONG WITH THESE FEELINGS THAT ARE GROWING STRONGER BY THE DAY.
I'LL WRITE TO HER!
I'LL WRITE DOWN EXACTLY HOW I FEEL ON THIS STATIONERY
AND GIVE IT TO SAKIKO-SAMA!
"I LIKE YOU" IS TOO BLUNT. I NEED SOME-THING MORE REFINED
SOME BEAUTIFUL WORDS TO SET THE RIGHT MOOD AND CONVEY HOW I TRULY FEEL.
I HOPE SHE ACCEPTS MY FEELINGS.
GARDENIAS, PLEASE GIVE ME COURAGE!

THE SCENT OF GARDENIAS ...
CLACK

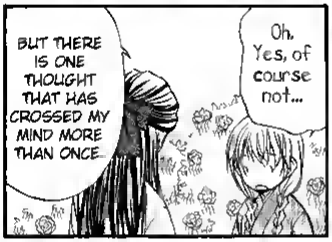
SAKIKO-SAMA...

EVEN THE ENVELOPE HAS A BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATION
tmp
RUSTLE

PLEASE...


SUZUNO-SAN?

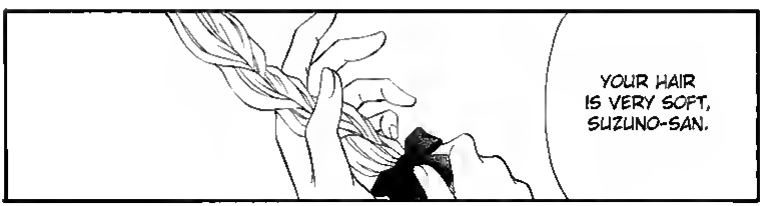
I AM SORRY TO SAY THAT I HAVE NOT YET COME TO KNOW YOU VERY WELL...
Um...


BUT THERE IS ONE THOUGHT THAT HAS CROSSED MY MIND MORE THAN ONCE...
Oh. Yes, of course not...

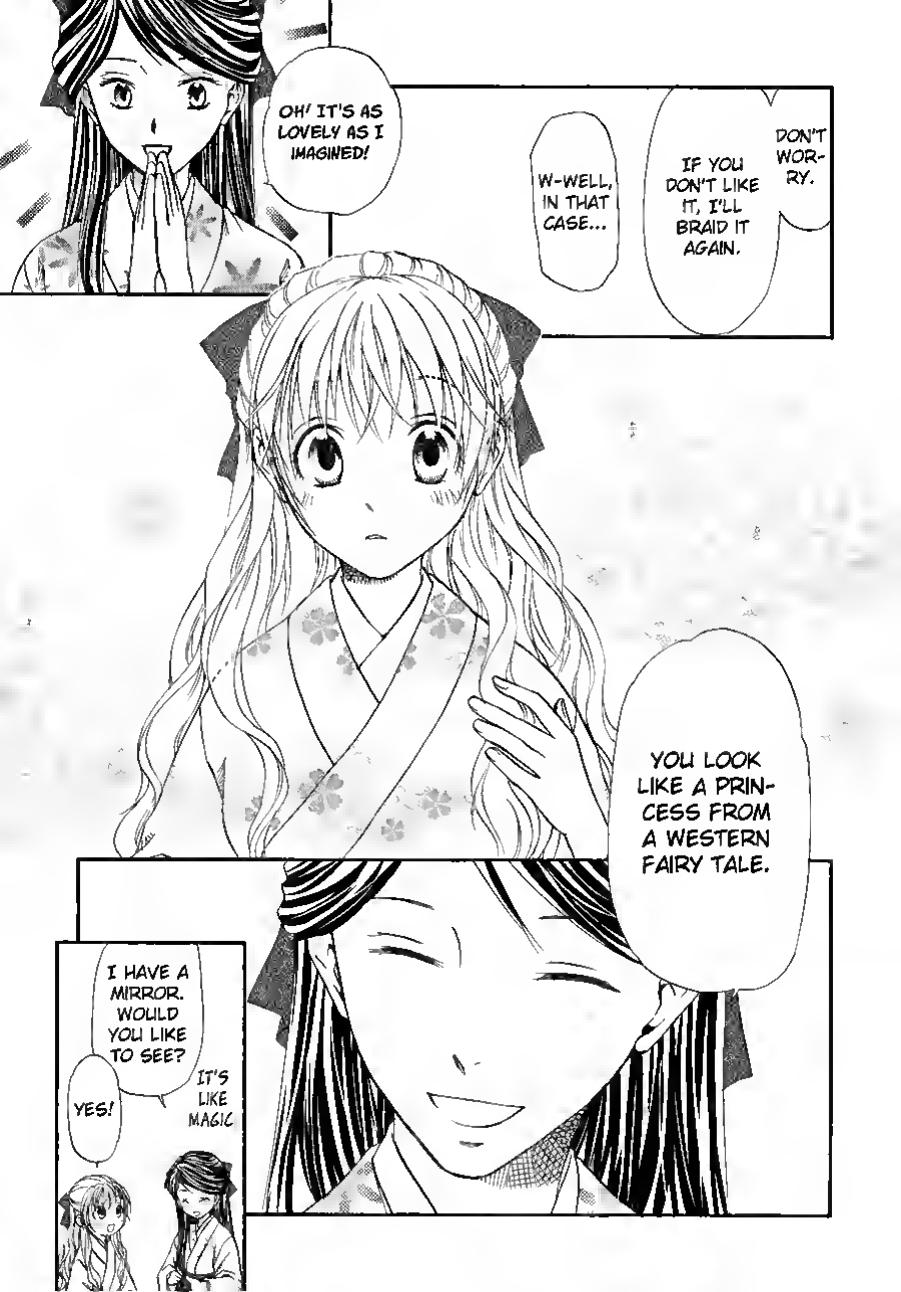
SAKIKO-SAMA!
I WAS VERY PLEASED TO RE-CEIVE IT.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER.

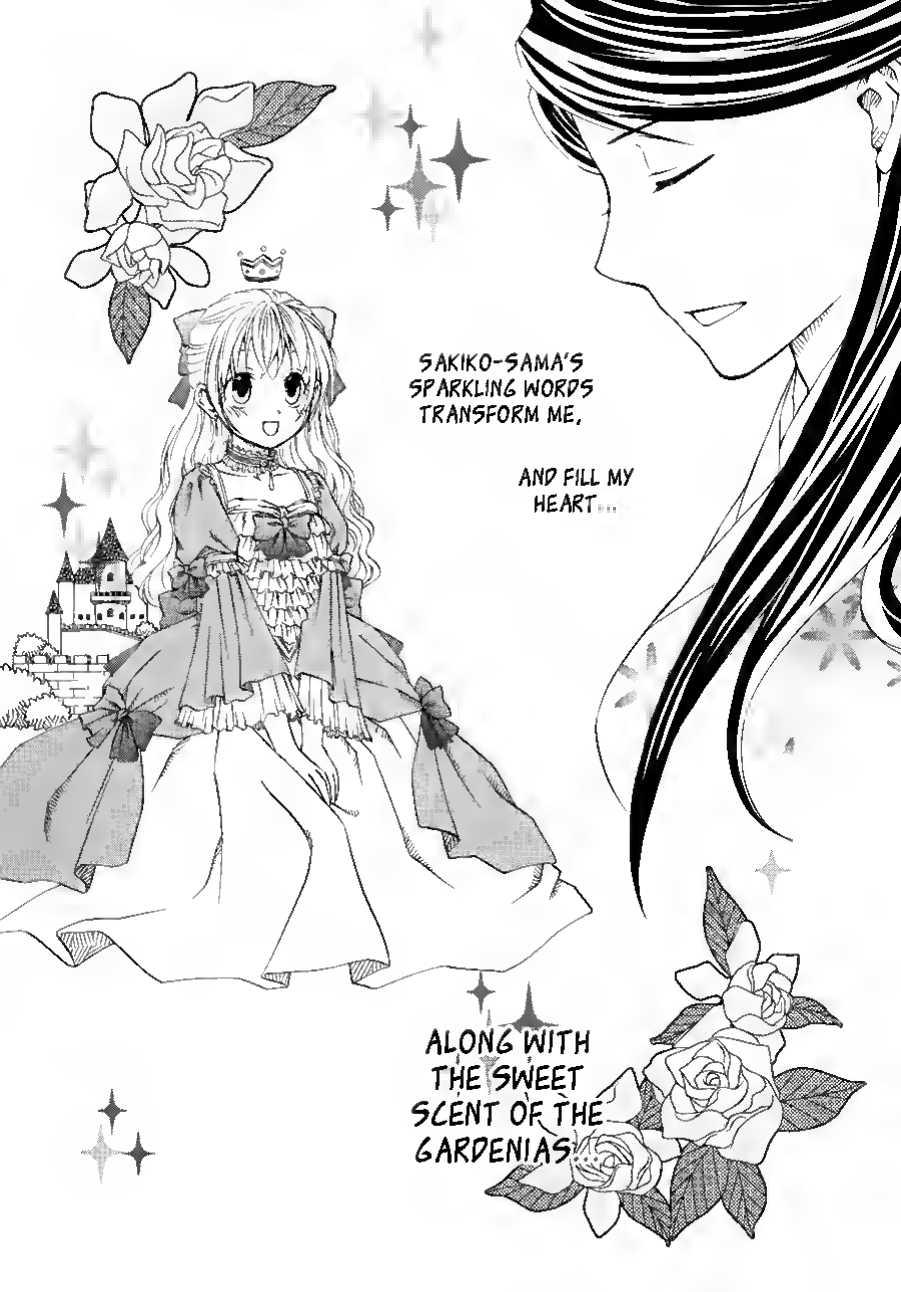
THAT I AM CERTAIN I WILL SHARE YOUR FEELINGS ONE DAY.

SO PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH ME.
YES! WE'LL GROW CLOSER AND CLOSER, UNTIL WE'RE SPECIAL TO EACH OTHER IN A WAY NOBODY ELSE CAN MATCH.


YOUR HAIR IS VERY SOFT, SUZUNO-SAN.

HMM,
THESE BRAIDS DO SUIT YOU,
BUT DO YOU EVER WEAR YOUR HAIR LOOSE?
HUH?
OH, NO, MY HAIR IS TOO MESSY.
IT LOOKS TERRIBLE LOOSE.
I WISH IT WAS STRAIGHT AND SHINY LIKE YOURS, SAKIKO-SAMA...
I THINK YOUR HAIR IS BEAUTIFUL, SUZUNO-SAN.
OH!
WHEN IT CATCHES THE LIGHT, IT GLISTENS LIKE SPUN GOLD.


OH! IT'S AS LOVELY AS I IMAGINED!
W-WELL, IN THAT CASE...
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, I'LL BRAID IT AGAIN.
DON'T WORRY.
YOU LOOK LIKE A PRINCESS FROM A WESTERN FAIRY TALE.
I HAVE A MIRROR. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?
YES!
IT'S LIKE MAGIC


SAKIKO-SAMA'S SPARKLING WORDS TRANSFORM ME,
AND FILL MY HEART...
ALONG WITH THE SWEET SCENT OF THE GARDENIAS...

WE USE SWEETLY-SCENTED YUMEJI STATIONERY FOR OUR EXCHANGE OF LETTERS.
I SLEEP WITH HERS UNDER MY PILLOW,
SO I CAN SEE HER IN MY DREAMS.
THE FRAGRANT OLIVE BLOSSOMS HAVE REPLACED THEM.
THE SEASON OF THE GARDENIAS IS PAST NOW.
THEN THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS...
NEXT WILL BE THE SNOW-FALL,

AND WE'LL BE TOGETHER THROUGH IT ALL.
SUZUNO-SAN...

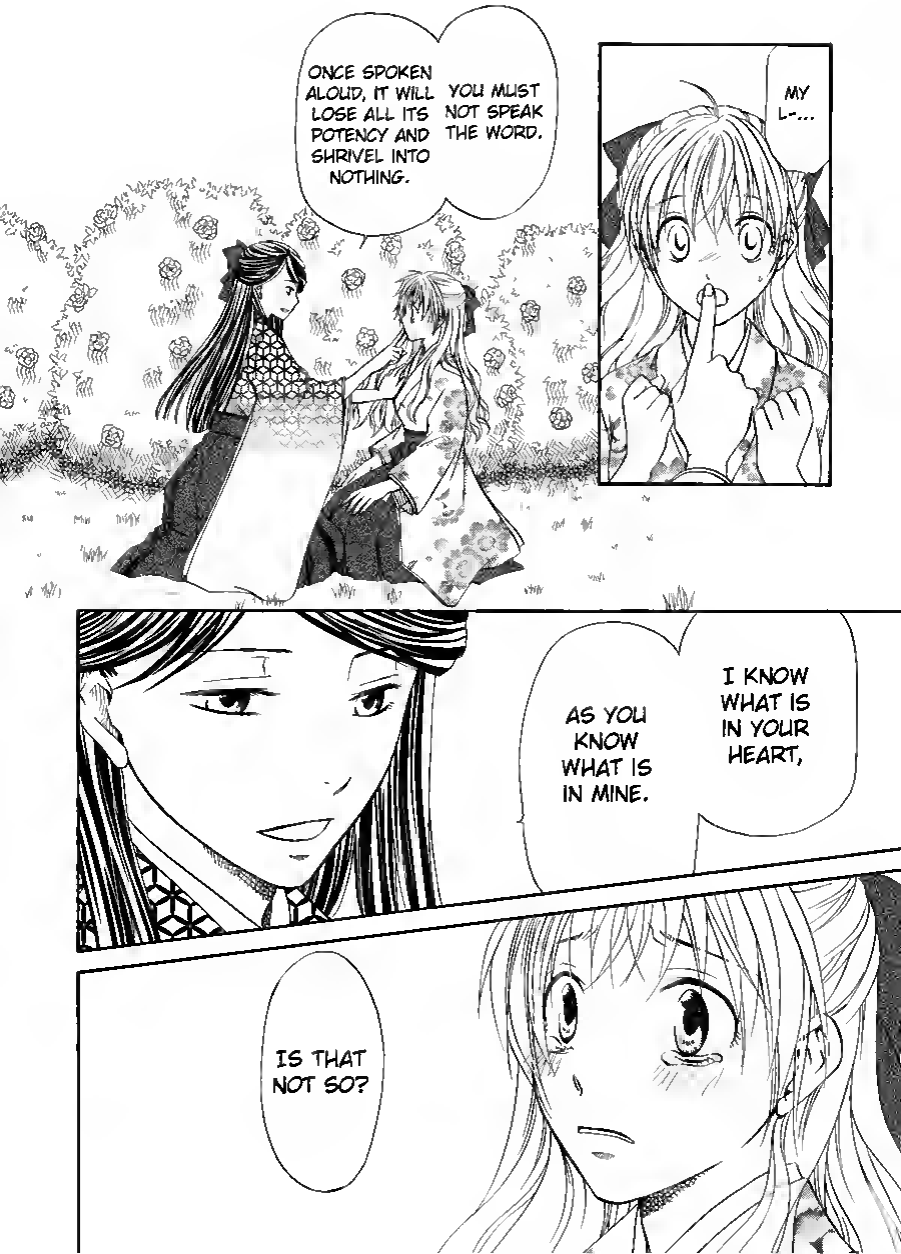
CLANG
YOU SEE .....
GOOD MORNING, SUZU-NO-SAN. UM...
GOOD MORNING, SAKIKO-SAMA.
CLANG
I WONDER IF WE COULD MEET IN OUR SPECIAL PLACE TODAY...
CLANG
WHAT IS IT?
I WILL SEE YOU THERE.
WHAT COULD BE BOTHER-ING HER?
SHE LOOKS UPSET.

GOOD MORNING, EVERY-ONE...
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
YES, HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
OH! SUZU-NO!
IT MAKES ME WOR-RY.
k-chk
HEARD WHAT?
THE BAD NEWS!
SAKIKO-SAMA IS DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL!
WHAT?
SHE'S BEING MARRIED OFF TO SOME SECOND LIEUTENANT IN THE ARMY.
NO, HE'S A FIRST LIEU-TENANT.
WHATEVER! I DON'T SEE WHY THEY CAN'T AT LEAST LET HER GRADUATE FIRST.
WELL ..

IT'S ALL JUST RUMORS. I'M SURE OF IT.
I TAKE IT YOU'VE HEARD, THEN?
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!
HE'S BEING SHIPPED OUT, SO THEY WANT TO HAVE THE WEDDING RIGHT AWAY.
SAKIKO-SAMA IS LEAVING?
TO GET MARRIED?!

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO HEAR IT FROM THE RUMOR MILL. I HAD HOPED THAT I WOULD BE THE ONE TO TELL YOU.
IT...
SAKIKO-SAMA...
IT'S TRUE, THEN.
COME, SIT. THERE IS MUCH TO SAY.
I KNEW OF MY BETROTHAL, OF COURSE.
IT IS THE WAY OF THINGS.
BUT...
WE HAVE NEVER MET. THERE WAS LITTLE OP-PORTUNITY TO DO SO.

I THINK I WILL REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF COURAGE TO MARRY THIS STRANGER...
DON'T GO THROUGH WITH IT!
SAKIKO-SAMA,
HE WON'T FEEL WHAT I DO FOR YOU... NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE CARES FOR YOU, IT WON'T COMPARE TO


MY L-...
YOU MUST NOT SPEAK THE WORD.
ONCE SPOKEN ALOUD, IT WILL LOSE ALL ITS POTENCY AND SHRIVEL INTO NOTHING.
I KNOW WHAT IS IN YOUR HEART,
AS YOU KNOW WHAT IS IN MINE.
IS THAT NOT SO?

SNAP
HAVE YOU HEARD...
THAT THE GARDENIA DOES NOT BEAR FRUIT?
AND YET IT HAS SUCH LOVELY, FRAGRANT FLOWERS—
LET THIS PRECIOUS FLOWER
HOLD YOUR FEELINGS, AND MINE.

AH!
I'VE BEEN SELFISH.
ONLY THINKING OF MY-SELF.
SAKIKO-SAMA IS BOTH KIND AND STRONG.
MY AFFECTION FOR THIS FLOWER WILL NEVER FADE.
BUT THROUGH ALL MY YEARS OF MARRIAGE, THROUGH THE BIRTHS OF MY CHILDREN AND GRAND-CHILDREN,
MY LIFE MUST CHANGE NOW...

I WILL GROW GARDENIAS IN MY GARDEN
SO THEY MIGHT BE NEAR TO MY HEART FOREVER.
I'M SURE I WILL DO THE SAME, SAKIKO-SAMA.
WHEN I MARRY SOMEDAY, I'LL PLANT THEM TOO...
FLOWERS DON'T LAST. THEY ALL WILT, IN THEIR TIME, AND ARE SCATTERED ON THE BREEZE.
BUT

EVERY YEAR, WHEN THEIR SEASON COMES AROUND, I'LL SMELL THE GARDENIAS

AND BE LOST IN A MEMORY... PAINFUL YET SWEET.

男子禁制!! 少女と少女のヒミツの純愛コミック

コミック百合姫

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声で楽しむ恋のおはなしっ♪

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